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**Philatelic Journal of India.**

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Vol. X, No. 5.]

MAY.

[1906.]

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## Editorial.

A CASUAL glance through the advertisement pages of any of the monthly magazines of the type of the *Strand* or the *Pall Mall* will be rewarded (*sic*) with the sight of a dozen or so illustrated advertisements of hair restorers—there are apparently at least a dozen remedies for loss of hair or loss of colour of the hair—but many people look better when they are grey or white—yet no one advertises a method of “greying”, so we rush in where angels (or advertisers) fear to tread—we have an unfailing specific, and it is this—edit a *Philatelic Journal* during a change of printers—if the thing doesn’t work within a week we will return you your money and give you another remedy—joking apart (and it wasn’t a joking matter) we have passed through an anxious time—our March number was a month late, our April number (dashed off in a violent hurry) and taken as a very urgent matter by our new printers was three weeks late—but better times are coming, and during the next few months our readers will have the unusual experience of receiving their *P. J. of I.* up-to-date—of course there may be an earthquake in consequence of such a deviation from normal—but we must risk it, and trust to luck.

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THE changes of watermark and paper of the De la Rue Colonials are so difficult to keep up with that we have decided not to list them monthly, but to periodically list the values which have recently appeared. Some of our members have kindly written to say that they would be pleased to write for the Journal if a subject could be suggested—here is an opportunity—If one of our readers would take over the De la Rue new issue list, and another would take the new Australians they would be very materially lightening our Editorial labours.

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THE present number is unusually small, in consequence of the recall of a long and important article, by the author, for amendment.



# Philatelic Society of India.

*Balance-Sheet, 31st December, 1905.*

	RS.	A.	P.	RS.	A.	P.		RS.	A.	P.	RS.	A.	P.
To Printers ..	..	..	..	3,647	8	0	By Exhibition Frames ..	..	..	..	130	12	0
„ Balance Account, being	..	..	..				„ Furniture ..	..	..	..	167	0	0
balance in favor of	..	..	..				„ Subscriptions :						
the Society ..	..	..	..	505	15	9	Outstanding						
							1903 Indian ..	60-0-0					
							Foreign ..	15-12-0					
									75	12	0		
							1904 Indian ..	100-0-0					
							Foreign ..	15-12-0					
									115	12	0		
							1905 Indian ..	200-0-0					
							Foreign ..	31-8-0					
									231	8	0		
							„ Sundry Outstandings..	..	..	..	423	0	0
							„ Cash with Honorary				939	8	0
							Secretary ..	101	8	10			
							„ The Punjab Banking						
							Co., Ltd. ..	2,391	10	11			
											2,493	3	9
Total..				4,153	7	9	Total..				4,153	7	9

At the request of the Honorary Treasurers I have prepared the above account (with connected Working Account) from the books and statements produced to me. The value of the Library and back numbers of the Journal and Handbooks on hand at date has not been brought into account.

CALCUTTA, }  
15th March, 1906. }

W. CORFIELD,  
Auditor.

# Philatelic Society of India.

*Working Account, 1st January, 1905.*

	RS.	A.	P.	RS.	A.	P.		RS.	A.	P.	RS.	A.	P.
To Printing, Stationery,							By Subscriptions						
Postages, Telegrams and							94½ Indian ..	1,890	0	0			
Incidentals ..	..	..	..	170	13	4	15 Foreign ..	236	4	0			
„ Library ..	..	..	..	16	4	0					2,126	4	0
„ Journal Printing ..	2,510	10	6				„ Journal Sales ..	167	14	0			
Postages ..	143	5	6				„ Advertisements						
				2,654	0	0	(estimated) ..	818	7	1			
„ Handbook on the Fiscal											986	5	1
and Telegraph stamps							„ Sales of Handbooks ..	..	..	..	595	4	0
of British India ..	..	..	..	1,468	13	0	„ Balance, being loss						
							carried to Balance				602	1	3
							Account ..	..	..	..			
Total..				4,309	14	4	Total..				4,309	14	4



# The Postage Stamps of Victoria.

BY E. W. WETHERELL.

(Continued from p. 63.)

WE now come to the period from 1873 to 1883—in these years numerous changes and additions were made—the first of these was the issue of a  $\frac{1}{2}d.$  stamp—it is curious that the  $\frac{1}{2}d.$  stamp of Great Britain was half the size of the one-penny stamp, and so in Victoria the first half-penny stamp was of very small size—indicating as it were that it was of small value. The shades vary considerably—the earlier prints being brownish rose, carmine and deep rose, and the last printings being pale rose, bright rose, rosine and scarlet, and for a short time the stamp was printed on rose-coloured paper—this must not be confused with the rosine stamp whose colour spreads when wetted and stains the paper somewhat. The  $1d.$  laureated type was superseded by an entirely new design showing a three-quarter-face portrait of the Queen. I do not know who was the engraver of this stamp but it is not quite so remarkably ugly as the rest of the series. This stamp also varies in shade—it is called pale-green and yellow-green by Gibbons, but some shades are darker and have less yellow in their composition—the abominable tinted paper was employed for this value also, yellow and drab tints being used. The  $2d.$  of De la Rue design was also changed and not for the better—a poorly designed and badly printed stamp of larger size taking its place—about a dozen marked shades exist, and the authorities had the audacity to offend the sight of the public by printing a lilac (or mauve) stamp on *green* paper and also on buff—the effect of the former combination is horrible.

In 1876 a new die of a similar design was prepared—it shows a double-lined oval in place of the thick single line—and, either because the printing is better or the design clearer, this variety is not so displeasing to the eye.

The octagonal  $1/-$  stamp of 1875 which had had a life of about ten years, was the next to be changed—the new stamp has the same portrait as the  $1d.$  of 1873 but with a much shorter neck—this stamp would not be displeasing if it had been printed on white or pale-toned paper, but cannot be described as a beauty in its issued colour of blue on blue.

The perforation of these stamps is 12, 13 and compound, and the watermark V and Crown.

It may be well to see exactly what stamps were in use in 1880, they were—

$\frac{1}{2}d.$  small stamp.

$1d.$  three-quarter face.

$2d.$  double-lined oval.

$3d.$  orange (1866).

$4d.$  laureated type.

$6d.$  blue, 1871 design.

$8d.$  Provisional on  $9d.$  (1873 design).

$9d.$  possibly not in use.

$1/-$  blue on blue.

$5/-$  red and blue.



The 2/- stamp of 1864 had not been altered, but I have not seen copies dated as late as this period, and it is probable that this value had gradually dropped out of use.

The following is a list of the chief varieties:

1873-'83, (a) white paper.	(b) coloured paper.
$\frac{1}{2}$ d. dull rose ...	$\frac{1}{2}$ d. rose on rose.
$\frac{1}{2}$ d. deep rose ...	1d. green on yellow.
$\frac{1}{2}$ d. carmine ...	1d. „ on drab.
$\frac{1}{2}$ d. rosine ...	2d. mauve on pale-green.
$\frac{1}{2}$ d. scarlet ...	2d. „ on blue-green.
1d. yellow green ...	2d. „ on buff.
1d. pale green ...	1/- blue on pale-blue.
1d. dull green ...	1/- „ on blue.
2d. bright mauve ...	1/- bright blue on blue.
2d. dull mauve ...	1/- deep blue on blue.
2d. lilac ...	
2d. mauve (double-lined frame) ...	
2d. violet ( „ „ ) ...	

## A Student's Letter.

*The following typical letter was recently received by the Editor who thinks it deserving of notice.*

SIR,—I beg to state that having taken a fancy for Stamp Collecting I began my collection in July, 1904. My collection, in spite of my keen interest in the matter, has not gone beyond 500 varieties till now. Being a student of limited means I am not able to spare money for purchasing stamps. Sometimes when some of my friends want to dissuade me from what they call, "The Stamp Collecting Mania" I become entirely disheartened and the idea of giving it up takes possession of my head. But when the dissuading influence is removed the ever-increasing love of collection again takes a firm hold of my mind. But the only course left to me of enlarging my collection is by exchange. But unfortunately this course is not encouraging when I think of the diminutive nature of my duplicates corresponding to my diminutive collection 500. In this conflict between the advice of my friends and my own desire and love for collection I am compelled to seek your advice being told that yours is the 14th best collection in the world. I would therefore request that you will be good enough to suggest how I can improve my collection, if in your opinion there is any hope of improvement under the circumstances stated above.

Let me also request you to be good enough to help my collection by sending me any duplicates which you can conveniently spare.

Let me conclude praying to be excused for encroaching upon your valuable time, I solicit the favour of an early reply.

I beg to remain,

Sir,

Yours obediently,

H. PILLAI.



## Topical Notes.

**B**ARBADOS has issued a Nelson commemorative set. If Nelson had known that his deeds were ever to form a subject for stamp designs he would possibly have shot himself at an early age, and England might have become a Colony of France? It is indeed well that we cannot look into the future.

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**N**EWZEALAND has proposed and Egypt has seconded the proposal for universal penny postage. There is therefore no truth in the rumour that Obock has suggested a reduction from 25c. to 17½c. to make calculations easier, and that the Marianne Islands have seconded to show there is no ill-feeling between the respective Fatherlands.

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**T**HE Algeciras Conference is at an end, and there has been no commemorative stamp !!!! One of our friends had suggested some appropriate designs, the one we liked best represented the President falling on the neck of the German Emperor, with Von Bülow suspended over their heads to represent mistletoe. The right upper corner shows a miniature portrait of Kaid Mclean, the left upper gives a view of Mogador, the left lower depicts the Atlas Mountains, and the right shows a Moor of Old.

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**O**BVIOUS—If you have the choice of living with a rabid Philatelist or shooting yourself do not hesitate for a moment,—shoot *him*.

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There once was a "Double Geneva"

Composed by a wicked deceiver

Coloured ultramarine, and "rouletted between"

Tête bêche with a Canada "beaver."

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**I** HEAR that our Editor is still searching for the person who committed the following:—Why is a Holkar stamp like a drawing room? Because it's indoors (Indore's). Police!!

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"TANCRED."



# The Stamps of Iceland.

A PAPER READ BEFORE THE PHILATELIC SOCIETY, LONDON, 16TH  
FEBRUARY, 1906, BY THE REV. W. N. USHER.

**A**BOUT ten years ago I was asked to write an article for the official magazine of the Philatelic Society of Bengal (*The Philatelic World*), and I chose as my subject "The Stamps of Iceland," the large and barren Danish Colony, a subject in which I had been interested for some years.

I have never, I regret to say, been to Iceland, but am well acquainted with its history and have read much of its ancient literature, so that when an opportunity presented itself to me of obtaining its postage stamps, through a friend whose brother was our Consul in Reykjavik, I naturally took a more than ordinary interest in them, and have now got a fair collection of them brought together, which I have much pleasure in submitting to your inspection, and about which I have written the following notes:—

I have to acknowledge the following sources of information:—J. B. Moens' Catalogue; *A Catalogue for Collectors*, by Captain Evans, 1882; *Gibbons' Monthly Journal*; two articles in the *Germania Berichte*, 1903, by Herr Oscar Herbst, Charlottenburg; an article by Herr Paul Meyer in the *Nordisk Filatelisk Tidsskrift*, and several official notices; and I have to thank Mr. W. T. Wilson, of Birmingham, and Messrs. Ruben, of Copenhagen, and Messrs. Whitfield, King & Co., of Ipswich, and others for the invaluable help which they have very kindly afforded me.

I propose to divide the subject before us into three parts:—I. The period from 1873 to 1875, dealing with the stamps issued under the old monetary system of skillingar. II. The period from 1875 to 1897-8, with the currency in duplicate. III. From 1898 to the present time.

In the Iceland stamps there is one watermark throughout, a simple form of crown surmounted by a cross. There are two perforations,  $12\frac{3}{4} \times 12\frac{1}{2}$  and  $14 \times 13\frac{3}{4}$ . These are given variously in the catalogues, but for convenience I will call them  $12\frac{1}{2}$  and 14. The watermark and perforations are the same as in the Danish stamps of the same periods, the stamps of Iceland being always made in Copenhagen.

## DIVISION I.

Of the skilling series, the 2 sk., blue, 4 sk., red, 8 sk., brown, and 16 sk., yellow, were issued on 1st January, 1873; the 3 sk., grey, was added in the following March.

The 2 sk. and 8 sk. are found with the perforation 14 only.

The 3 sk. with the perforation  $12\frac{1}{2}$  only, although Capt. Evans gives it as in the smaller perforation also, but I have never seen one.



The 8 sk. lilac Official stamps is in perforation 14 only.

The 4 sk. and 16 sk. and the 4 sk., green, Official are found in both perforations. It is difficult to say which was used first, as in the large number of remainders left when the currency was changed the 4 sk. is perforated 14, while the 16 sk. and the 4 sk. Official are perforated  $12\frac{1}{2}$ .

The 4 sk., red, perforated  $12\frac{1}{2}$ , and the 16 sk., yellow, perforated 14, are comparatively rare stamps, while the 4 sk., green, Official perforated 14 is the rarest of them all.

Imperforate copies of all these stamps exist with watermark, and some with gum, some without.

I fancy that those with gum were put in circulation; the 4 sk., red, certainly was, and is, a very rare stamp, both unused and used.

You will also see an imperforate copy of the 4 sk., green, Official, which is apparently used.

The imperforate, 3 sk., grey, has no watermark, and is evidently a proof. The 4 sk., green, Official is found with inverted watermark.

In the case of the skilling stamps perforated  $12\frac{1}{2}$ , the perforation runs right through all the margins, the "guillotine" machine being used. In the sheets perforated 14, only the bottom margin is run through, showing that the "comb" machine was used.

## DIVISION II.

In 1875 stamps were issued in the new currency of aur., the colours remaining the same as in the corresponding values of shilling, up to the 8 sk. and 16 aur., brown.

The transition stamp, and probably the first issued in this series, was the 5 aur., blue, perforated  $12\frac{1}{2}$ . It was soon changed to perforation 14 to bring it into line with the other values. These are 6 aur., grey, 10 aur., red, 16 aur., brown, 20 aur., lilac (for international postage), and 40 aur., green.

There is but little to be said about these stamps. They had only slight variations of shade. The 6 aur. is sometimes in a dark grey, of smudgy appearance, and sometimes (latterly) in a lighter shade, with a clear, clean appearance. The first issue of the 20 aur. was in a true lilac and is rare, but the last edition was almost of a violet colour, and there were considerable remainders when the colour was changed.

Imperforate copies of the 5, 6, 10, 16, 20 and 40 are met with, but they are without watermark, and are probably proofs. The 5 aur., blue, is an exception, as it is found both with, and without, watermark; the former is in the true colour, the latter ultramarine.

I would call your attention here to the postmarks which are used in this country, as they are always of interest and indispensable to the philatelist.



Those first in use are in Roman capitals inside a circular line, and in the centre the day and month, but not the year, which is a great loss. These were followed by the name being printed in thin block capitals, and lastly a postmark similar to those used in Denmark, and which shows the year as well as the day and month. These are mostly in black ink, but latterly we find some in violet, with a Posthorn surmounted by a Crown in the centre, and without date.

Notice also the stamps with foreign postmarks, such as Edinburgh, Leith, Færoer, Stavanger, Copenhagen, and the old Danish postmark of concentric circles.

The Official stamps of this period are the 10 aur., blue, 16 aur., carmine, and 20 aur., green.

The earlier sheets of these stamps have a yellowish appearance, probably caused by the gum. The 10 aur., blue, was printed in a distinct ultramarine for the second edition, and for the third was changed back nearly to the first shade, but rather a brighter blue.

The imperforate stamps are without watermark.

In July, 1882, a new value was added for printed matter—the 3 aur., yellow. At first these were printed on a thin paper, made yellowish and semi-transparent by the gum, so that the watermark often shows through. Afterwards the paper was thicker and the gum white. I think the white gum was first used about 1896-7.

In the same year the 5 aur. was changed from blue to green, the 20 aur. from violet to blue, and the 40 aur. from green to lilac, to meet the requirements of the Postal Union.

The 5 aur., green, is found with inverted watermark.

The 20 aur. was printed first in a dull blue, then in ultramarine, like the 10 aur., official—this stamp is comparatively scarce—then in a brighter blue.

The 40 aur. was printed first in a pure lilac, which is very rare, unused, then in mauve, and finally in a darker shade of reddish lilac.

In 1892 the 50 and 100 aur. were issued, the 50 with a blue frame and carmine centre, the 100 with a brown frame and violet centre.

Of the Official stamps the 5 aur., brown, was issued in 1878. A sheet of these evidently found its way into Iceland imperforate, with watermark and gum. These imperforate stamps are very scarce.

In 1882 the 3 aur., yellow, Official was issued; also a new value—50 aur., lilac. The latter is found with inverted watermark.

I am informed that these Official stamps are used somewhat differently from those in other countries.



Iceland has a small population—seventy thousand—scattered over a great extent of country, and all sorts of private individuals, such as doctors, pastors, judges, and syslemen (magistrates), hold official positions in addition to their ordinary occupation, and are allowed to use Official stamps.

In my paper in the *Indian Philatelic World* I spoke of the simplicity and comparative lack of interest in Iceland's Philately. It had not sinned enough to be interesting! And up to this time I think you will agree with me that it had rather an uneventful career. Now, alas! it has lost its good name, and in the last few years it has made up for lost time with a vengeance. But I honestly believe that, at first at any rate, their surcharges or overprintings were done in all simplicity, and if afterwards, when they found that money was to be made out of them, we must not blame the people of a poor country over much when the example had been set in many states more favourably circumstanced.

### DIVISION III.

We come, then, to Division III, from the time when the stamps were issued perf. 12½ to the present day.

Here also there is a transition stage, and that is the latter half of the year 1897. All the catalogues place the perf. 12½ issue in 1898. But one is met by the following facts:—

The first Iceland surcharge is what is known as the "*prir*" surcharge, and I found that all dated copies of these were in November, 1897, and that the stamps were perf. 12½, which made me feel sure that the 5 aur., green, at least was issued with the new perforation in that year; and in looking over my stamps I found an envelope with a strip of four of the 5 aur., yellow-green, and dated 2nd September, 1897.

More curious still, I have come across the 20 aur., ultramarine, perf. 12½, dated 19th June, 1897.

So that we find two stamps, and those most commonly used—the 5 aur., green, and the 20 aur., blue, perf. 12½—issued in 1897, although I believe the bulk of the series were not issued until January, 1898.

Now with regard to the "*prir*" surcharges, I have a copy of the official notice which was sent round to the various postmasters by Herr Hannes Thorarensen, and was printed in Icelandic with an English translation:—

REYKJAVIK, 10th November, 1897.

"DEAR SIR.—I beg to inform you that the postal government has issued new '3 aur., postfrim' stamps. The old ones are quite out of stock because the Danish mail was sixteen days late on account of the average [*sic*] of the mail steamer 'Hjalmar.' The postal government has therefore been obliged to issue new '3 aur., postfrim' stamps, and she has done it in that way that she has altered green 5 aur. stamps into 3 aur. stamps by printing on them. At first she had printed on some sheets the numeral figure '3' in red on the middle of each stamp, and besides that on the same stamps the word "*prir*" (meaning three) in black printing. These stamps were first sold in the Post Office on the 1st instant. The appearance, however, was not considered pretty, and on the rest of the new stock, therefore, only was printed the word "*prir*" and no red figure. This later edition was issued on the 3rd instant.



"I send you this letter by post, stamped with one of these new stamps (later issue), and the postal officials will have to cancel the stamp, as well as they cancel all other stamps on postal transmissions.

I am, Dear Sir, yours truly,

HANNES THORARENSEN."

These stamps were evidently very quickly bought up or dispersed, for we find the following circular from the same gentleman three days later:—

REYKJAVIK, 13th November.

DEAR SIR,—On account of the 3 aur., postfrimerke stamps being now again quite out of stock at the Post Office, and as the postal government will not issue any more new stamps, all printed matters below a certain weight will now be sent by post without any pasted stamp, the usual yellow stamp being substituted by a black stamp with the word 'Franko' placed at the Post Office on each letter with a back [*sic*] tool used for this purpose only. I send you this letter by post, and the postal officials will have to provide it with a copy of this new black stamp, just like they do with all other printed matters that are now sent by post.

I am, Dear Sir yours truly,

HANNES THORARENSEN."

I have not been able to obtain a specimen of this black stamp with the word "Franko" either on the above circular or on any other printed matter.

The history of this surcharge may well be completed by the following, which I have copied from the *Monthly Journal* of February, 1899.

#### THE ICELAND PROVISIONALS OF 1897.

BY STANLEY GIBBONS, LTD.

As we see by some of the German papers that the Iceland Provisionals issued in August [*sic*], 1897, of which we have sold a good few, were stated to be swindling products, we have taken some pains in investigating their history, and have much pleasure in publishing herewith two documents, one signed by the Governor of the island, and the other by the leading consuls, proving the absolute authenticity of these stamps, whose merits we do not think can be called in question any further.

Translation:—

#### "THE GERMAN CONSULATE IN ICELAND.

REYKJAVIK, 7 February, 1899.

The Governor of Iceland.

"In your favour of 1st February, you begged me, Mr. Consul, to give you a declaration upon the newspaper article then enclosed, which is said to have appeared in the philatelic journal *Vertrauliches Correspondenzblatt* in Dresden, No. 12, 1898, wherein it is maintained that the overprinted 3 aur., Iceland stamps upon the stamps of 5 aur., are a swindling production, which an Icelandic post office official is said to have brought about without permission, in spite of the fact that a sufficient supply of the ordinary stamps of 3 aur. were on hand, and further, that this post office official has himself taken over the supply of the stamps overprinted in this manner.

"With regard to the above statement, and remarking that it is entirely false from beginning to end, the following is to be reported:—

"Shortly after the present postmaster, Briem, who took over the post office at Reykjavik on 1st August, 1897, had taken over the postal business, it was discovered that the supplies of the ordinary 10 aur., and 3 aur., stamps were almost used up. The want of 10 aur stamps could be supplied by stamps of 5 aur., of which a considerable quantity were



on hand (see my envelope). As, however, the rate for printed matter is 3 aur., per 10 kvint the ordinary stamps of 3 aur., could not be dispensed with. Soon afterwards I ordered from Copenhagen a new supply of the ordinary stamps of 10 aur. and 3 aur. At the end of October in the same year the yellow 3 aur. stamps were quite used up before the new supply had arrived from Copenhagen. As in this way there were no more 3 aur. stamps for use, I caused eighty-six and fifty sheets of the 5 aur. letter stamps to be overprinted with the word '*prir*' (three) in black colour. The first eighty-six sheets were at first overprinted with the '3' in red, but in consequence of representations made thereupon by the postmaster all the 136 sheets were overprinted with the word '*prir*' in black colour. Of the 136 sheets thus overprinted, 126 sheets were handed over to the postmaster for use instead of the ordinary 3 aur.

"The greater part of the overprinted and delivered stamps were sold here in Reykjavik at the beginning of November of the same year, and were all used up, as a new supply arrived towards the end of the month. That anyone whatsoever of the Icelandic postal authorities has made use of the abovementioned overprinting for purposes of speculation, or that he has made use of the same in order to enrich himself through the sale of the overprinted stamps, which is forbidden by law, is a perfectly baseless incrimination.

(Signed) MAGNUS STEPHENSON."

The genuineness of the translation is hereby attested.

"REYKJAVIK, 10th February, 1899.



"The German Consul, D. THOMSEN."

The official imprint of the Imperial German Consulate at Reykjavik is affixed, as above.

Translation :—

"THE GERMAN CONSULATE IN ICELAND.

"The undersigned consuls and townsmen of Reykjavik on demand make the following declaration herewith with regard to the revillings that have been published in the German Philatelic Journals concerning the Icelandic postal system :—

"The stamps of 3 aur., overprinted on the green stamps of 5 aur., are certainly no 'swindling productions.' The stamps were overprinted on the order of the Governor, as being the chief postal authority, in order to supply an actual failure of the stamps of 3 aur. The stamps have been sold at the post office here, as also at other places in the country where the stamps of 3 aur. were lacking, and have been used everywhere for franking letters sent by the post.

"It is also an unlawful statement that an Icelandic postal official has bought or taken over a large part of the overprinted stamps, or that any post office official whatsoever has in any way a pecuniary interest in the overprinting here referred to.

(Signed by) D. THOMSEN, Consul for Germany.

"C. ZIMSEN, French Consular Agent.

"J. THORVALDSSON, British Consul.

"GUÐBRANDUR FINNBOGASON, Vice-Consul of Sweden and Norway.

"REYKJAVIK, 9th February, 1899.

"The accuracy of the translation is hereby attested.

(Signed) D. THOMSEN, German Consul."

"REYKJAVIK, 10th February, 1899."

This "*prir*" surcharge is found in two types, both of figure and word. A thick or block figure and a thin or ordinary figure, which are found with a small word and a large word respectively. I have never seen a whole sheet of these surcharges, but from the fact that the two types are found *se tenant*, one above the other, I should guess that the upper half of the sheet



was printed with the small word, and the lower half with the large. You will see a top corner block of four—this has the small word.

These surcharges are found for the most part on the 5 aur., yellow-green, perf. 12½, and I mention this shade of the green because it is the same as the stamps used before this November, while the usual shade of the 5 aur., green, perf. 12½—that usually found—is a much greyer green, showing that the first batch of this stamp had been mostly used up in the printing of these 136 sheets with the surcharge. I have not yet met with any of these 5 aur. yellow-green stamps bearing a date between November and the end of the year. (They were probably used up.) The surcharge is found inverted in both types, but I have not seen an inverted copy with the word only.

You will notice one specimen with a quasi-double surcharge.

Some sheets of the old 5 aur., green, perf. 14 were also surcharged with figure and word, and these are decidedly scarce—especially unused.

Forgeries of these surcharges have been pretty extensively manufactured, but so far as my experience goes they are not difficult to recognize. One pretty sure test for used copies is the postmark, which in genuine copies is clear and distinct and is dated some time in November, 1897.

#### THE PERF. 12½ ISSUE.

In January, 1898, we find the following values issued perf. 12½; 3 aur., yellow, 4 aur., pink frame, grey centre (a new value). 5 aur., green, 6 aur., grey, 10 aur., carmine-red, 16 aur., brown, 20 aur., blue. Of the 20 aur., there are two distinct shades, the first, ultramarine, the same as the second edition of the 20 aur., perf. 14. This is the stamp which seems to have been issued in 1897. It is not given in Gibbons' Catalogue, and is much scarcer than the second or ordinary shade, which is bright blue. These stamps are on wove paper with crown watermark, and have white gum.

In 1900 a new value, 25 aur., was added, brown frame with bright blue centre. The specialist will notice a curious flaw in one of these stamps, the first leg of the "N" in Island being filled in with blue colour. This occurs only on the forty-fourth stamp in each sheet.

In 1901 a change was made in the 3 aur. The figure "3" was made larger and whiter than before, and, indeed, the whole lettering of the stamp has a whiter appearance. The catalogues give the date of its issue as 1902, but I have several copies dated 1901, one being 23-9-01.

In 1902 the 50 aur. was issued, perf. 12½, but its unsurcharged life was so brief that it is comparatively scarce, especially in a used condition.

The 40 aur., mauve, was also (printed and) perforated 12½, but I have never seen a copy without the "I GILDI" surcharge.

The Official stamps perf. 12½ were the 3, 4 and 10 aur., the 4 aur., grey, being a new value. These had but a brief existence before the overprinting began. The 5 and 20 aur., were also perf. 12½, but are found only with the overprint.

*(To be continued.)*



## Cum Grano Salis.

DEAR MR. EDITOR,—Yes I have seen that the Great Ones are giving a history of their birth, and rise to Philatelic fame, and I thank you for the suggestion that I should do likewise\*—I propose therefore to show in 6 chapters how I “grewed”—but they won’t be chronological.

The following will explain for instance how I came to write my first Philatelic Article—I will call it, for the sake of brevity †—

### A LITERARY SCANDAL

OR

### A TALE OF A DÂK BUNGALOW IN THE RAINS.

Life was a blank: the “Rains” had commenced, and we six unfortunate men were held up in a “T. B”. a hundred miles from anyone or anywhere. Two were on duty, three on shikar, and one “on his own.” The three parties had met accidentally, and there we sat wondering why in the scheme of creation any of us had ever been born into this world of sin and rain. After several hours of sitting and hating one another and ourselves, Jones made a remark; he doesn’t strike one as the sort of man who would do such a thing as a habit, but on this occasion circumstances were too strong for him. He observed that the weather was beastly; Jones has the bump of originality! Another hour passed then Walton said yes it is vilely beastly; Walton does harp so on one string.

It cleared up a bit towards evening and was not raining more than half-an-inch an hour. We dined—what on—Goodness and the Cook only knew, and the cook forgot in ten minutes; but Worcester sauce “covereth a multitude of sins” and gives to monkey, goat or bat a flavour which reminds one of England, Home and Beauty. Over the walnuts and the wine—represented by a whisky peg and several rather squishy chocolates which Fothergill found in his kit bag—Jones came out, (he was clearly a man who expands when full of good wine,) and made a suggestion, “Look here you fellows we are stuck up in this hole for a week at least, so let’s have a literary competition.” Walton said “hear hear,” he always does; if someone voted for swimming the Cauvery in flood, or for singing “On the Road to Mandalay” from the minaret of the Mosque at Seringapatam he would say “right ho I’m on.”

We wanted particulars and Jones explained—“I set a subject and *you* write it.” That will suit me said Brooks, for I once wrote a description of a school concert for a local paper, and also tried my hand at a parody of the Lost Chord, but couldn’t make the last line rhyme. “Oh that’s nothing” said Jones “old Shakespeare didn’t always rhyme, and yet he was pretty useful.”

\* We disclaim all knowledge of the suggestion referred to.—*Ed., P. J. of I.*

† There was a man whose Christian name was Job—people called him *Nebuchadnezzar* also for the sake of *brevity*.—*Ed., P. J. of I.*



"Next morning Jones set the subject "The Advantages of Stamp Collecting—we found out long afterwards that Jones *edited a Stamp Journal and was on the look out for "copy"*—a horrid dodge I call it.

I wrote two or three reams of first class matter ; it is curious how ideas come at times, they absolutely flowed from my pen just then ; I found a stamp collection was a friend from childhood's days, a help in time of trouble, a companion for all time and a solace in the evening of life.

It was really wonderful what poetic inspirations were brought out by the subject. It may have been that detestable Dâk Bungalow which was responsible, and which was—

Crowded with scorpions  
Ants and fleas  
And centipedes  
And bumble bees  
And rats and bats  
And pussy cats  
But not the least  
Of all of these  
That striped-legged beast  
Anopheles.

Having written about 180,000 words I felt quite confident of winning the prize. The weather cleared next day and Jones left asking us to send all the MS. to him by post.

I worked hard for a week in reading through my essay to be certain the language was Stevensonian—after a week I decided that it was so, and sent it to the post. The Postmaster refused it on account of the weight, so my language ceased to be Stevensonian or even Parliamentary—how easy it is to fall from one's high ideals. The Postmaster returned my call in the evening when the hospital assistant had finished with him. He gave me to understand that his salary of Rs. 5 per mensem did not include serious risks. I explained that my parcel was urgent ; he said he knew it was ; I asked how he knew ; he replied that he believed it to contain the corpse of someone else I had hit, and that I was trying to hide the evidence of my crime by sending away the body. After explanations he was persuaded to take it ; and so my masterpiece went forth to conquer a world untaught.

Jones says he read it (Jones is really a very ignorant person) I don't believe he did, for he is an admirer of Stevenson, and if he had really read it he must have been struck by the similarity of command of all that is beautiful in the language which the Immortal R. L. and I possess. All he *did* say was "why on earth don't you write and spell decently"—the idiot,—fancy not knowing that all truly great writers are perfectly illegible, and that it is the printer's devil who corrects their spelling, Jones has no poetry in his soul, it is not his fault poor fellow—we can't all be re-incarnations of the Great upon Earth,—and I who had written 180,000 words could afford to ignore Jones and all his petty jealousies.



The others however asked me to oblige Jones and write something *down* to his level—as they put it so nicely of course I had to comply.

As I was short of paper the bungalow wall was brought into requisition for my rough draft. I tried to condense my great thoughts into half the space, thoughts which may really be those of Milton or Dante as I said before (one never knows). I felt quite sorry for the people who had missed my masterpiece, and felt depressed in consequence, and one can never write well when depressed. When Jones read my second attempt he wrote back that he was chartering a steamer to carry all my contributions home—they were too good for India he said. I was hurt, and swore by the Gods of Old (and anything else that was handy) that I would hide my *magnum opus* from the eyes of a world unkind, and a literary cotterie should know me no more.

The only thing I *did* get out of that competition was a bill from the Deputy Commissioner for the cost of re-whitewashing the bungalow wall—on which he said I had scribbled, “SCRIBBLED” forsooth!—officials like that have no souls.

Years had gone by since then, when, one day, a very-much-number-one-sized official, whom we all wot of, asked me to contribute to the *Philatelic Journal of India*.

Having truthfully explained to you exactly how I came to write things, I will stop for the present and remain—

Yours faithfully,  
“TANCRED.”





## Correspondence.

THE EDITOR,

*Philatelic Journal of India.*

DEAR SIR,—With reference to our previous communications on the subject of the double printed  $\frac{1}{2}$  anna Indian stamps, which in your issue of November, 1905, you suggested was “printers’ waste,” we have since been in communication with Mr. C. Stewart-Wilson, who informs us that the facts stated in our previous letters are substantially accurate, and he adds :—

“There can be no question whatever of the stamps being “printers’ waste” because they had long left the printers’ hands, and were as a matter of fact in India for the purpose of issue to the public; the mere fact that the sheet was discovered before any non-philatelist had bought copies for use cannot be said to affect the question. You are perfectly at liberty to use this information as from me personally.”

Yours Faithfully,  
WHITFIELD, KING & Co.

DEAR SIR,—We have had some correspondence both with Sir David Masson and with Mr. Wetherell on the subject of the  $\frac{1}{2}$  anna double printed Indian stamps which you illustrated in your issue of November, 1905, and as the remarks made by Mr. Wetherell editorially underneath the illustration has to some extent prejudiced the sale

of the stamps, we wrote to Mr. Stewart-Wilson asking him to ascertain if there were any records of the sale of the stamps in question, or whether he could give us any information about them, and in reply we have received a letter of which the enclosed is an extract, and we shall be obliged if you will kindly print it in an early number of the journal.

We may say for your information that this particular sheet of stamps was found in the stock at a post office near Calcutta and was purchased entire at its face value by the gentleman from whom we purchased the greater part of the sheet, which had been broken up into small blocks; unfortunately a great many of the stamps are badly rubbed and creased so the number of perfect copies available for collectors are very few.

Yours faithfully,  
WHITFIELD, KING & Co.

We have already mentioned in the *Philatelic Journal of India*, that our remarks on these stamps were written in the belief that such prints could not have been sent out by such careful printers as De la Rue. It is perfectly clear now that these stamps actually were sent out and as such are very rare errors. We hope Messrs. Whitefield, King will accept our apologies.—Ed., *P. J. of I.*

